

Useless PREFACE
to a ROMANTasemic
Writing

by

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and

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as hacked-apart-and-re-assembled by

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To begin with there is precious ,little use in our being on this earth .and living Skills are acquired behaviors .similar to acquired tastes, a book cannot be turned into gelatin soup. They are learned behaviors valued by the dominant culture to the extent that it can use them. Different comical traits, areas of the dominant culture value different .skills Skill is developed you will, originally, jump-started if through training, then honed, refined, through experience through ,practice the practice, of the particular .skill One sets out to learn a skill, seeks out an expert in the field rehabilitation ,the of virtue, and is trained by rote and through information until one has acquired the desired skill; he wears his hair of an apostolic length; It is the same whether one wishes to repair an automobile engine or write a sonnet an automatic syringe, elastic belts, crinoline collars, penitentiary literature, patent-nipple nursing-bottles, program a computer or paint a portrait ,Regnault's comfits, he composed dramas not a railway, they quoted ;his odes when he composed dramas they sent him back to his novels and ,recipes for toothache. Morality puts in a brief appearance in the somewhat bourgeois incarnation of Loyal the constable.

There is a hierarchy at work here and those who reside at the highest levels ,do so due to their possession of a specialized knowledge and their mastery of its requisite

activities: the arcanum and its secret gestures: morgue literature, the gnosis and its rites. They prevent our really owning anything our ,having a book to our very self. Almost all of us can learn almost any skill if we desire .to do so So diminish the population of the globe that All that ,is required is, the desire and the work *has ultra metas* the desire and the willingness to put in the time and put forth the effort .to acquire the skill they are the utilitarian critics,—The forgetfulness of healthy ,doctrine essentially civilising and carry mankind along the road; Usefulness,—what is that word? All the skills that are taught, and the ways in which they are taught are ,structurally necessary to the culture that ,What is it applied to? What is the good of this book? else they would not ,be taught In what way can it be applied to the moral and physical improvement of we cannot be as primitive and patriarchal as they were in the Ark.

We should think of this usefulness as meaning ,only one thing: useful means useful to the dominant culture. always and only, nothing but rain and homilies our most numerous and poorest classes? But to barely keep from dying is not living, That which is deemed useful, they couple Robespierre and Jesus Christ became so jansenistically prurient in the jolliest way, is such only insofar as it reinforces the fundamental structure of the culture. The most useful place in a house is the shitter. Only in this way is progress .possible Any other is bitter

delusion, The power relations that are structurally in place must remain structurally in place. Change is not only ,allowed it is required, but only in the details of the larger pattern; What matters it whether it is a sword, an aspergillum, or an umbrella that rules you? the larger pattern of necessity must remain intact. It is a stick just the same kind of club to be laid across their shoulders ,teaches them for our ultimate descendants Urge the proletariat to engender more inhabitants, and, when ,those swarm without reason to sweep them off the streets with artillery.

How comes it that men write verse and novels that lead to nothing which do not help ,on our generation on the road of the future? What happens if one desires to practice useless skills, skills that are not useful in maintaining the structure of the culture? First of all one will not be able to acquire these skills ,in the usual manner. There will be no teachers provided by the culture, who the new works of the Romantasemic school cause to shudder and shy that the classics; no training will be available. One's desire will of necessity need ,be nearly an obsession. The work, the time and effort required, may seem disproportionate to the desire, I am not in the habit. One will likely decide to pursue some other skill of looking ,at certain parts of statues, to alter one's desire, to attune one's desire to those regarded as useful by the culture when it would be more

progressive and far less costly to break it and to hurl the ,pieces away, fire cannon-balls at them instead of giving them bread.

What happens if one persists in the pursuit of useless skills? What excitement! What frenzy! It is unlikely that an entirely unforeseen activity will be invented ,so one will work in the shadows of an already established tradition, delirious jailer's literature. Next, any play or novel, pen, ink, paper, and a printer. But at least at the outset one, will work alone, without guides or guidelines. The wheel will likely be reinvented accidentally and often. (Reinventing the wheel is useful in the pursuit of ,useless skills. Charles Fourier has invented as many kinds of animal as the great naturalist) Our ignorance is pretty learned. Then, why talk of progress? But the wheel is not a part of the desire, so it will be discarded — discarded not as useless, a few of Saint-Simon's ideas, but as useful, therefore inappropriate to the pursuit. One trains by sorting and wandering, gathering and discarding, re-reading Pantagruel between the bottle and the pipe, always discarding. This is a nomadic pursuit, not necessarily directionless or circuitous, which enables me not to guess logogryphs and charades. the very pomps of Satan, but always everything but the steady step along a straight and narrow path. —like Sardanapalus, that great, misunderstood philosopher—This is the crooked path, and its passage is along the low road.

A large reward to him who should invent a new pleasure; This autodidact will learn to do things that others have no desire to do, that others are not allowed to do, what is useful to one man that others are not able to think of ,doing which I honour as highly as the profession of constitutional monarch. This is obvious from the outside looking in but only acknowledged by the dominant culture, the couplet of the adder, in moods of elitist condescension. Has a single additional mortal sin been invented? The normative reaction of the dominant culture will be derision or a haughty indifference. Structural superiority, however, permits itself the privilege of praising, especially to virtuous people, from a position of ignorance is of no use to the other. This is a method that attempts to appropriate the useless. A cursory glance at recent cultural history in America the most triumphant, the cobbler is far above the poet ,the most pyramidal, alone reveals several instances of this. He promises to develop new pleasures, and to develop the organs and senses. There is only one way around this: if one is truly committed to the practice of useless skills, one must be constantly on guard against one's own tendencies towards usefulness. Useful, virtuous and progressive: that cannibal, Charles X.

Three useless skills

1. private writing, by which I mean writing that has a strictly subjective significance for the writer this writing .a nightcap out of metonymy may be appropriated by the dominant culture, filthy literature, i.e. published, sold, archived, studied, etc, but it cannot be known for what it is. Books are the product of manners, not manners of books. To think one way and to write in another happens, imaginary plagiarisms, every day a writer's disciplined practice of private writing can only be known as such by that writer. other knowledge concerning it will never be other than. The ancillary author himself would have owned his book quite ridiculous.

2. After sanguinary literature, aseptic writing, by which I mean writing that is shifted intentionally towards the unreadable towards ,image, others add, by way of final ingredient, without discarding entirely all vestiges of either the letter or the line, Messrs. Z., K., Y., V., Q., X., or some other letter of the alphabet between Alpha and Omega and without assuming the alternative status of visual art. Is not a pair of two seamless boots, is that when reading it is a hybrid writing, a writing not meant for a reading mingled with an imaging not meant for looking ,one is asleep instead of reading. The book which shall be praised is the book which has not yet been published. it is a useless, mutant writing, its uselessness a

mutagen for the writer. He alone has been logical enough and bold enough to carry out the consequences to their ultimate end.

3. A witless prank ,It is unquestionably a great and lofty idea to turn to use movements which hitherto it has been sought to repress, sifting, brooding, drifting. And all because we are progressing.

Théophile Gautier + Jim Leftwich + Olchar E. Lindsann

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